GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1392
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
INTER STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES
Nizamuddin Shri G.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several inter-State water disputes have been pending for several decades, particularly in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the expenditure incurred on resolving these disputes during the said period;

(c) the action taken by the Government in each of the dispute during the last three years; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to facilitate resolving of such disputes at a quicker pace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) ,(c) & (d) As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, the water dispute arises among two or more State Governments when the Central Government receives request under Section 3 of the Act from any of the basin States with regard to existence of water dispute. The details of the present inter-State water disputes under ISRWD Act, 1956 are as follows:

S.No.	River/Rivers	States concerned	Date of Reference to the Central Government	Date of Reference to the Tribunal
1.	Ravi & Beas	Punjab,Haryana and Rajasthan	____	April, 1986
2.	Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry	July, 1986	June, 1990
3.	Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra	September,2002	April, 2004 - January, 2003
4.	Madei/Mondovi /Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra	July, 2002	-
5.	Vansadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Orissa	February, 2006	-

In accordance with the said Act, the Central Government is required to refer a dispute to a Tribunal after it is satisfied that the dispute cannot be settled by negotiations. Accordingly, the water disputes related to Cauvery and Krishna were referred to the Tribunals for adjudication in 1990 and 2004 respectively. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) submitted report and decision under section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 5.2.2007. Party States and Central Government have sought guidance/ clarification from the tribunal under section 5(3) of the Act. Further, party State have also filed Special Leave Petition (SLP) in Hon`ble Supreme Court against the report and decision of the tribunal as mentioned above. The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal passed orders on Interim Relief Applications of the States on 9.6.2006.
The water dispute related to Ravi & Beas was referred to the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) in 1986 under Section 14 of the said Act. RBWT submitted its report on 30.1.1987 under section 5(2) of the Act. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from the Tribunal. The Tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government. In respect of Mahadayi/Mandovi River Water Disputes raised by Government of Goa, the Ministry of Water Resources is of the opinion that water dispute contained in the request of Government of Goa cannot be settled by negotiation. Meanwhile, the Government of Goa filed a suit in the Supreme Court for setting up of Water Dispute Tribunal for adjudication of above River Water Dispute and an Interlocutory Application (IA) for stay in construction activity in September 2006.
In respect of Vansadhara Water Dispute, the Central Government has not concluded so far that the dispute cannot be settled by negotiations. Meanwhile, the Government of Orissa has filed a Writ Petition in September, 2006 in the Hon`ble Supreme Court.
The mechanism for settlement of water dispute is already available in the form of ISRWD Act, 1956. The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2002 whereby the adjudication of the water dispute by the tribunal has been made time-bound.

(b) The expenditure incurred by Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and Krishna Water Disputes Tribunals since their constitution till January, 2008 is Rs. 6.16 Crore, Rs. 11.80 crore and Rs. 3.25 Crore respectively.